

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

PIF Resource Information Sheet

This information sheet is designed to provide the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with the necessary data to be able to evaluate the significance of the property for possible listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. This is not a formal nomination, but a necessary step in determining whether or not the property could be considered eligible for listing. Please take the time to fill in as many fields as possible. A greater number of completed fields will result in a more timely and accurate assessment. Staff assistance is available to answer any questions you have in regards to this form.

General Property Information	For Staff Use Only DHR ID #: 173-0023
Property Name(s): <u>On The Hill</u>	
Property Date(s): <u>1830's</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Circa <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre <input type="checkbox"/> Post Open to Public? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Limited <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Property Address: <u>982 Jefferson Street</u> City: <u>Boydton</u> Zip: <u>23917</u>	
County or Ind. City: <u>Mecklenburg</u> USGS Quad(s): <u>Boydton</u>	
Physical Character of General Surroundings	
Acreage: <u>23 +/-</u> Setting (choose one): <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Corridor	
Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features: The site is a large lot, already listed as a contributing property, within the Boydton Historic District (173-5001). A large Queen Anne Victorian house sits at the crest of the small hill several hundred feet back from Jefferson Street. To the front of the house is a "horse shoe" shaped driveway. At each end where the drive intersects Jefferson Street there are pairs of brick pillars topped by spherical balls. The front also contains about a dozen tall oak trees, some 2-3 hundred years old. There are several magnolia trees and a line of about two dozen pine trees to the right of the house, as viewed from Jefferson Street. The remainder of the property consists of wooded land and open space. Local lore has it that Union soldiers camped in one prominent grove of trees during the Civil War.	
Secondary Resource Description (Briefly describe any other structures (or archaeological sites) that may contribute to the significance of the property: At the rear of the house there are four still standing small structures, a well/pump house sitting atop a stone lined well (said to date from the 1795-1815 period), "summer kitchen", smokehouse and a caretakers cottage. A few markings indicate where the 1803's carriage house stood and a depression in the ground suggests the original location of the "ice house".	
Ownership Category: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/> Public-State <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	

Individual Resource Information	
What was the historical use of this resource? Dwelling with one section of the house having been used as a law office.	
What is the current use? (if other than the historical use)	Private dwelling with occasional "Open House Tours" for local fund raising groups with special interests.

Architectural style or elements of styles: The dwelling has a multi cross-gabled roof which was a result of the circa 1886 renovations and expansion. That renovation converted the house from a two-story "three over three farm house" into the "Queen Anne Victorian structure that exists today. Viewing the front (from Jefferson Street) left to right; 1)carriage/carport 2)a wraparound porch in several distinct sections covers the entire front of the house and beyond. First, wide steps from the carriage port lead to a small area with a "secondary" front door. This door provides entrance to what is now the second parlor. This room was used by George B. Finch as his law office from the mid 1880's until his death. The porch then follows the contour of the three story Victorian turret. The porch then continues straight along the house front and curves back in to follow the set back that shelters the double door main entrance. Continuing on past these doors is a straight section that juts out several feet from under the protective porch roof. This protruding section is framed by a "Japanesque Luna Oval". The final section contains a classic Victorian gazebo that extending past the "west" end of the house and wraps a short distance towards the rear. The entire porch is "framed" with classic Victorian "gingerbread", turned posts and brackets.

One of the highlights of the second story above the porch roof in the approximate center (over the main door area) is an upper porch framed in its own "Japanesque Luna Oval". This area also contains a section of "fish scale" siding.

The third story, which contains the attic, includes a prominent section of the turret as well as a group of three windows that make up a palladium design. These windows are surrounded by an elaborate configuration of Victorian ornamentation covering this entire north facing side of the third story.

The turret contains a total of nine double hung curved glass windows, three on each floor. The exterior of the turret is sided with a variety of garlands, fish scales and other Victorian naturalistic relief ornamentation. The first floor of the turret and the remainder of the house is sided in bead board and painted in four different colors as traditionally appropriate for a Queen Anne Victorian home.

Architect, builder, or original owner:

The house and property is believed to have come down to us through the "Finch" family line from the mid 1790's until 1980 when it was purchased by individuals from California. It was purchased by the present owners in 1986.

The 1880's renovation that created the basis of the present configuration was designed and constructed by the son of Jacob Holt. Both were from Warrington NC. and responsible for many notable buildings throughout this area of southern Va. And nearby north central NC. Holt the younger, transformed the 1830's 3 over 3 farm house into an 1880's "modern" Queen Anne Victorian home. Alice Marrow-Finch the wife of George B. Finch (married Jan. 26, 1886) requested that Mr. Holt copy as near as possible the design of a home she had seen in Durham, NC. This Durham home was that of a Dr. George Brown. It was built to a design provided by a Victorian architect, George F. Barber. Barber is known to have sold books of house plans through various outlets. In fact Barber's "Dr. Brown house" was featured in much of Mr. Barber's advertising. (Sadly Dr. Brown's house burned to the ground shortly after the turn of the twentieth century.)

Holt successfully copied (in mirror image) the detailed design of Barber's plan. While "On The Hill", is slightly longer than the Dr. Brown house the front face is otherwise virtually the same. Needless to say the interior floor plan is considerably different from the "Barber" floor plan. (Copies of the "Dr. Brown ad and some pages from George Barbers plan book are available)

of stories 3 Condition: ☒ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Poor ☐ Ruins ☐ Rebuilt ☐ Renovated

Are there any known threats to this property? no

Resource Component Information

Please answer the following questions regarding the individual components of the resource. If the component does not exist, answer “n/a.” If you feel uncomfortable in answering the question, please leave the space blank. Photographs of the features can also help our staff identify specific feature components. Usually, priority is given to describing features on the primary (front) facade of the structure.

Foundation:

Continuous brick interspersed with stone piers supports the exterior. Additional brick/stone piers provide support throughout the crawl space and under the front wrap porch. The multi element porch across the front is supported by a “lattice” of brick work and decorative stone piers.

Structure: The house is a wood frame structure.

Walls: Most of the exterior walls are beaded clap board except for front areas of Victorian ornamentation. (see photo’s)

Windows: There are 53 windows throughout the home. (refer to photo’s) The number of “lights/window” varies over a wide range.

On the first and second floors there are 20 single hung windows that slide vertically. These date from the late Victorian renovation or earlier. On the first floor, three of these windows are configured in a “bay window” form at each end of the house. (A total of six windows). Also five of these windows are used in the south facing dining room to form a slightly larger “bay”. This “bay” was used after the 1886 renovation as a “Conservatory/atrium” for plants.

An additional 9 curved glass single hung vertical sliding windows populate the turret (three on each level graduating in height with the tallest on the first level and the shortest at the attic level). These date from the 1880’s addition. On the attic level there are five single hung sashes; Three of these comprise a paladin group. These are located in the middle of the front facing gable.

On the first floor level there are also 8 double hung windows from the 1958 addition of kitchens a bedroom & bathrooms. One of the bathrooms has a window that opens via a top pair of hinges On the second floor there are there are three double hung windows and two sliding windows There is also one sliding (l-to-r) i

Porch: Briefly describe the primary (front) porch

The porch covers the entire length of the front of the house, wrapping around slightly at each end. The West end is dominated by a classic Victorian gazebo with cone shaped roof and metal ornament at the peak while the East end wraps into the portico/pony porch. The porch is constructed of wood with elaborate turned columns and railing. The roof is a gentle slope that follows the curves of the façade and is dressed with elaborate “gingerbread” below the front edge (see photo’s). The porch is supported via stone piers and a latticework of brick.

Roof: The roof is a series of cross gables and peaks. These are covered with conventional asphalt shingles. Photos of the house after the 1886 renovation show a roof covered in a metal faux terra-cotta tile including both the turret and the porch gazebo. The turret is presently covered in a tapered metal standing seam while the gazebo is covered with asphalt shingles.

Chimney(s): List the number of chimneys and the materials used. Include the brick bond pattern if possible.

There are four interior chimneys. The most westerly, has two vents and is believed to date from the 1790’s. A central chimney has four vents and dates from the period from mid 1790’s to 1835. The east most chimney has two vents and dates from the 1880’s expansion. In total these three chimneys served a total of 8 fireplaces. Seven of these (one is closed up behind a wall) are still visible throughout the home. The original height of the first two these chimneys can be seen in the house’s attic where evidence of the original roof line (i.e. prior t1880’s) and newer 1880’s brick can easily be seen.

The last remaining chimney dates from the 1958 “modernization” which added central “oil hot water” heating. (This heating is housed in a small cellar area below the “conservatory” and part of the dining room area.)

Architectural Description of Individual Resource: *(Please describe architectural patterns, types, features, additions, remodelings, or other alterations. A sketch of the current floor plan would be appreciated)*

In its present evolved configuration, “On The Hill” is a classic Queen Anne Victorian home as was popular in the late 19th thru the early 20th century. It is a contributing structure within the Boynton Historic District. The house has undergone a number of expansions over the 200+ years of its existence. The earliest section of the house is believed to have been constructed during the mid 1790’s. At that time, the house faced to the south where the remnants of an early “Petersburg-to-Durham” road still exist. From common belief it consisted of a one-over-one cabin with a small hall and stair case. Sometime prior to the 1830’s a new road

was constructed to the north of the house and the old road abandoned. By the mid 1830's the house had grown into a three-over-three farm house with hall and staircase. The front door at this point was now located on the north side of the house facing the new road.

The house remained in this configuration until the 1880's. It was in this time period the house was converted into the Queen Anne structure that dominates what we see today. In the 1958 time period the house had major renovations and additions. All of these impacted the rear of the house and left the Queen Anne façade intact. Some of these changes were; the addition of two kitchens, adding three and one half bathrooms and a downstairs bedroom. Central heat and electrical upgrades as well as "modern" plumbing rounded out the changes as the last of the original family returned to Boydton to live year round. It is believed that removal of a rear exterior "servants" staircase facilitated these changes.

The accompanying floor plan (which is not to scale) illustrates the present day configuration and denotes the best knowledge of the 1886 configuration. In the entire 200+ years of existence the house appears to have all of its areas intact. By this we mean, the house has been added to many times but no element of its "footprint" deleted in the process.

Original heart pine flooring is retained throughout the house with the age of the various sections/additions clearly evident. Seven of the eight fireplaces are clearly displayed with the eighth, in an upstairs bedroom, closed up behind a wall of sheetrock in 1958. A large pocket door added in circa 1886 separates the first and second parlors. This later parlor is circa 1886. The Queen Anne style walnut staircase remains today as does the clearly evident mounting location of an earlier stair's newlpost.

The antique windows (those prior to 1958) retain their virtually all of their original glass. The seven available fireplaces all have circa 1886 or earlier surrounds. Several of the fireplaces are painted faux marble. Those which were updated or added in the Victorian renovation have imported English Minton tiles added to their surrounds and in some cases Victorian over mantles. Victorian interior woodwork and "gingerbread" ornamentation is also retained throughout the house.

The original 1880's double front door, as well as the second parlor (G. B. Finch's law office post 1886) entrance door are also intact.

It is easy to see how architect Holt borrowed heavily from the design ideas of fellow architect George F. Barber.

Significance Statement: Briefly note any significant events, personages, and/or families associated with the property. (Detailed family genealogies are not necessary.) Please list all sources of information. It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or genealogies to this form. Normally, only information contained on this form will be posted for consideration by the State Review Board.

The design and style of “On the Hill” are derived from the “new” popular architectural features prominent during the late Victorian period. These Victorian features, added in the 1880’s, have been conserved through to today. Virtually all significant design elements are derived (copied mirror image from the, then existing, Dr. George Brown house in Durham NC.) from the work of George F. Barber noted Victorian architect.⁸

Some references cite that a \$5000 wedding gift, from George B. Finch to his Bride to be Alice Marrow, enabled the Jacob Holt firm of builders to become involved in the renovation of the existing “three over three” farm house into the Queen Ann Victorian that stands today.

Jacob Holt and his son V.K. Holt are cited as being responsible for all the late Victorian work (note: Jacob Holt died in 1880 so we do not know how much involvement he had)

George Beverly Finch- Born Feb 22, 1837² died Sept 13, 1900 Boydton Va. Descendant of Adam Finch²
He married Alice Somerville Marrow of Union Level Jan. 26, 1886¹.
Alice was born Oct 28 1860, died Oct 18, 1927
Both are buried in Zion Methodist Cemetery in the “Marrow” plot Union level Va.¹

George B. Finch graduated Randolph-Macon College Boydton Va., class of June 1860” the first under the new course”³

He then joined the Confederate service as a private in Company E 14th Virginia regiment (Clarksville Blues) May of 1861, was promoted to lieutenant soon thereafter.⁴

“At the battle of Gettysburg, he commanded his company (“...a Captain in Pickett’s Division”²) and marched up... cemetery hill, in the famous charge of Pickett’s Division and fell within a short distance of the stone wall severe wound in his hip”⁴
“...though he survived the gallant charge,, brought back with him from that field a Federal bullet that was not removed from his body until twenty years afterwards.”²

After his recovery, he attended the University of Virginia studying law as a student of the 41st session 1864-65 first session.⁶ He returned to “On The Hill” in Boydton and practiced law there until his death in 1900.^{1,2}

Sometime during the 1880’s it is believed that he served as Commonwealth Atty. for Mecklenburg County.¹ (still being researched)

In 1872 George B. Finch was the first President and a Director of the newly chartered Bank of Mecklenburg, a position he held until his death in 1900. He was in 1870, a Director of the Boydton and Ridgeway Turnpike Co, a member of the Board of Directors of Randolph-Macon College, on the board of Worlds Fair Managers of Virginia in 1892 and 2nd vice president Pickets Division Association..... active in facilitating the Associations reunion at Gettysburg in 1887 ... a member of. the Sigma chapter of Delta Psi at Randolph Macon College^{1,5,7,9}

1 Papers provided by the Finch/Marrow family

2 “Encyclopedia of Virginia Biographies” (pg 1092 has date of birth as Feb 27, 1837 conflicting with grave stones, Zion Methodist Cemetery and family papers)

3 Richard Irby: “History of Randolph-Macon College, Virginia. Pub. 1894

4 United Daughters of the Confederacy, Virginia Division, APPLICATION OF, Mrs. Alice Marrow Finch Goode Dec 7th, 1915

5 Notice published in The Richmond Daily Whig July 29th, 1872

6 Catalogue of the University of Virginia Sessions 1861 to 1865

7 “Life by the Roaring Roanoke”, Susan L. Bracey, pages

8 “Modern Dwellings” Geo F. Barber & Co., Architects Knoxville Tenn.

9”Catalogue of the members of the Delta Psi Fraternity

Legal Owner(s) of the Property (For more than one owner, please use a separate sheet.)Mr. ☒ Mrs. ☒ Dr. ☐
Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ Hon. ☐Alexander Robert Salzmann &
Virginia Carole Salzmann

PO Box 382

Boydton

Va

23917

(Address)

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

1jennybob@gmail.com

434 738 6589

(Email Address)

(Daytime telephone including area code)

Owner's Signature: _____ Date: 10/15/2012

•• Signature required for processing all applications. ••

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: _____

Daytime Telephone: ()

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Dr. ☐
Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ Hon. ☐

(Name)

(Firm)

(Address)

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

(Email Address)

(Daytime telephone including area code)

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Notification

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for the department to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator or City Manager.

Mr. ☒ Mrs. ☐ Dr. ☐
Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ Hon. ☐

Gerald Wren

Mayor

(Name)

(Position)

Town of Boydton

PO BOX 42 Madison Street

(Locality)

(Address)

Boydton

Va.

23917

434 738 6344

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

(Daytime telephone including area code)

Please use the following space to explain why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.

"On the Hill" has a long history dating from circa 1790 through to today. While added to many times little if anything has been removed over 200+ years. It has ties to the War-Between-the States and the growth of commerce in Mecklenburg County Va. The Jacob Holt firm of builders as well as the noted Victorian architect Geo. F. Barber are well represented in the house that survives today

Would you be interested in the State and/or the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes ☒ No ☐Would you be interested in the easement program? Yes ☐ No ☒ (need more information)